1/16/94

Jim Lesar
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Dear Jim,

Yesterday you referred to the work of Drs. Gary Aguillar and Randy Robinson and I told you merely that at this ~~stage~~ stage of my life and writing I avoid getting involved it the details of the medical evidence as they and others represent it. Thinking of that this morning before getting into work I add a little for your own thinking. By which what I mean is for your own involvements when you cannot do all you want to do and what has the prospect of being productive and worthwhile and what does not.

Aguillar seems to be a very nice guy. When I cautioned him that he could not depend on what he gets from Lifton his response was to the effect that he is not influenced by Lifton's opinions. He was interested only in information he could get from no other source. He meant this to include others with whom he is associated. I told him that what Lifton would provide is what did not challenge his beliefs but that made no difference to Gary.

As a generality the well-meaning people like Gary lack knowledge of the basic fact that has been established. This is in varying degrees true of most of those who advance the multitude of theories. None of them thinks in terms of testing their theories with the established fact. Some chose to regard established fact as not established. This is indispensible to their advancing and holding their theories. This I think makes them luftmenschen.

I've never had anything to do with those theories that have to do with allegations that the autopsy film was doctored for a very simple reason lost on most of these well-meaning pople. By this I do not mnean to include the Liftons. What is said to be the authentic autopsy film destroys the official mythology. Does it make any sense at all that anyone would run the not inconsiderable risk of getting into very serious trouble to counterfeit autopsy film of either kind that, when they have done their conuterfeiting they have film that destroys the official mythology? There are other details that in a waste of much time I took up with Livingstone.

On Robinson's work, have you asked May if such X-ray film can come from how that film was made, developed or handled?

I believe there is no reasonable question: the back of the head was not blown out. This is clear in the Zapruder film, in what was not publsihed when it was to have been, the nine frames after what was published. After I brought to light that these frames were to have been published the Archives put them in the trays for viewing and I studied them with care immediately, enlarged on projection to about four feet wide. Those frames were made by LIFE, not the FBI. There not only is no hole or even a drop of visible

blood on the back of the head, there is none on the shirt collar or the jacket. Now there is no real probability that the film was doctored, not the original. Moreover, that could not have been done in the processing and copies were made then. Any doctoring of the original film would not have been dared without access to all copies. Aside from those known to have bee made in Dallas, where bootleg copies also reportedly were made, LIFE made at least one black-and-white print in Chicago. So, can you see anyone toying with the original without access to all copies?

What point is served by hiding the alleged fact that the back of the head was blown out? In real terms for which I do not take time, having published it, even if that had been done and even if it is interpreted only as meaning that a shot from the front blew the back of the head out, thus proof of that was destroyed by phonying the film, those who advance these theories are ignorant of the fact that probative evidence of a head shot from the front remains in the Xrays. So, the alleged phonying would not have accomplished the alleged reason for the phonying.

Of the present Bill Pepper exploits I know only what I've read in the papers but from the past I believe that Pepper does not really know what fact has been established in the King case. I let him have access to whatever he wanted here, through a student who did whatever searching and copying he wanted. He never reacted to any of that, asked me nothing about it, so I do not know what he got or what interests him. But when long before that "trial of" show was announced he phoned me from England to hire me to work on it and to appear on it, I declined both. I have not looked at what was aired so I do not know all of it. But I've been told of the new autopsy witness he produced. What I've been told he said has no credibility. What is Pepper's approach? He never once asked me about or for copies of the records relating to the testing of the alleged and the real evidence. Proceding without knowledge of that seems to me to be a designed futility and to reduce the whole thing to theorizing and then trying to validate the theories. That does not work and I think cannot.

I believe that Oliver Stone never understood my sole objection to what he did in JFK and did not want to so I believe he will not welcome anything from me no matter how much it can be of use to him. I think he'll not stop to even think about it. Not coming from me personally, anyway. The man who'd worked for Bazelon did phone me and was not only interested in nutty theories only, he was visible indignant when I told him he was talking invalid theory only and would get nowehere that way. He was not interested in fact at all, that long after the movie and the controversy about it. If he evloved anything at all I've neither seen nor heard anything of it. But if Stone still has any serious interests or wants to get back at posner, my coming and delayed books, Case Opened and NEVER AGAIN! do for him what he cannot imagine. Dave and Jerry are familiar with both.

Best,

Harold